

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 1, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to respectfully request that you release to the public a copy of the speech National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice was scheduled to deliver on September 11, 2001 outlining the Bush Administration's national security outlook.

According to news reports, Dr. Rice was to deliver an address at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University describing threats to American national security but was pre-empted from doing so by the 9-11 attacks. Although Dr. Rice kept her promise to appear at SAIS, speaking there in April 2002, the speech she delivered that day was substantially different from the version scheduled seven months earlier.

Dr. Rice's 9-11 speech reportedly placed heavy emphasis on national missile defense while making no mention of Osama Bin Laden or al Qaeda. This is disturbing because according to senior Bush Administration officials there was a significant terrorist "threat spike" in intelligence reports beginning in June 2001 that continued throughout the summer. Over the following three months, the Federal Aviation Administration issued at least five information circulars warning of potential terrorist attacks and on at least two occasions the FBI warned local law enforcement agencies about similar threats.

Dr. Rice's speech suggests that at the very least there was a disconnect between the public security message and policy prescriptions top White House officials were pushing and the private warnings federal agencies were issuing about imminent threats to our homeland. More ominously, it may demonstrate that top White House officials did not take the warnings they received seriously enough. Finally, it appears to undermine comments Dr. Rice made in an editorial of March 22, 2004 that "The seriousness of the [al Qaeda] threat was well understood by the president and his national security principals."

As the 9-11 Commission continues its groundbreaking work to make America safer, it is essential that all the facts about the Bush Administration's security preparations and outlook during its first nine months in office are known to the public. Only then will the American people have full confidence that we are doing all we can to make sure a similar tragedy never occurs again. Accordingly, I encourage you to release the full text of Dr. Rice's 9-11 speech to the public.

Sincerely,



Charles Schumer  
U.S. Senator